

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05087 140517Z

14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 EB-11 AID-20 DRC-01

COME-00 /176 W

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R 140540Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1670

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5087

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MT, AS, CH

SUBJECT: MALTESE ACCREDITATION TO GRUNK AND PRG; PRC REAL
ESTATE DEALS

1. MALTESE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO AUSTRALIA FORACE, WHO IS ALSO
MALTESE AMBASSADOR TO PEKING AND PYONGYANG, TOLD ME SEPTEMBER
13 THAT HE WILL ALSO BE ASSIGNED AS MALTESE AMBASSADOR TO GRUNK AND
THE PRG. HE WILL BE GOING TO PEKING WITHIN NEXT TWO MONTHS TO
PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS TO SIHANOUK. HE WAS NOT SURE WHERE HIS
CREDENTIALS WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE PRG, BUT HE THOUGHT IT LIKELY
THAT THIS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN PARIS.

2. FORACE, WHO ARRIVED HERE AS AN IMMIGRANT IN 1954, AND MADE
A FORTUNE IN REAL ESTATE, SAYS THAT HE HAS, IN THE COURSE OF
SIX TRIPS TO PEKING IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, GIVEN CHOU EN-LAI
A GOOD DEAL OF ADVICE ON HOW HE SHOULD HANDLE BUSINESS MATTERS.
ACCORDING TO FORACE'S ACCOUNT, CHINA'S EXPORTS WERE AT COST PRICE
UNTIL HE POINTED OUT TO CHOU THAT THIS WAS DENYING THE CHINESE
PEOPLE THE BENEFITS OF MARK-UP IN EXPORT PRICING. FORACE HAD ALSO
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RECOMMENDED JOINT CHINESE-MALTESE VENTURES IN MALTA WHICH CHOU

HAD TURNED DOWN ON THE GROUNDSTHAT THIS WAS CONTRARY TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES. HOWEVER, CHOU AND THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA, WANG, HAD BEEN RECEPTIVE TO FORACE'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THEY GET A 99-YEAR LEASE ON THE MOTEL WHICH THE PRC HAS JUST PURCHASED HERE FOR \$1 MILLION, RATHER THAN PAYING \$12,000 PER MONTH RENTAL FOR THAT MOTEL. FORACE SAID HE HAD TO OVERCOME A GOOD DEAL OF "SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES" IN GETTING THE CHINESE TO SEE THE WISDOM OF BUYING PROPERTY HERE WHICH WOULD OBVIOUSLY ACCRUE IN VALUE RATHER THAN TO GO ON PAYING RENTALS AS AT FIRST THEY INSISTED ON DOING. THE NEW MOTEL WILL BECOME THE CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE FOR THE WHOLE CHINESE STAFF EXCEPT FOR THE AMBASSADOR WHO WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE IN HIS HOUSE NOW RENTING FOR \$1,200 PER MONTH.

GREEN

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